

## Minutes

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

### ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 29, 1999 1:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Chairperson Craig Brown, District Court Judge; Gayle Harris, Health Department; Ellen Reckhow, County Commissioner; Patrick Byker, Durham Chamber of Commerce; Evester Bailey, Durham Center; Riley Butler, Community Penalties; Rita Parker

**Board Members Absent:** Orlando Hudson, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge; Peter Baker; Captain John Knight, Durham Police Department; Mary Caudle, Community work Service; Candy Clark, Victim's Assistance; Jim Hardin, District Attorney; Shannon Tucker, Assistant Public Defender; Lao Rubert; Jessie Pickett-Williams, Vocational Rehabilitation; James W. Ellis Jr, DCC; Carolyn Titus, Deputy County Manager; Kenneth Titus, Chief District Court Judge; Wes Crabtree, Office of the Sheriff; Dr. George Wilson; Brian Aus

**Staff:** Gudrun Parmer, Jo Iverson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Judge Craig Brown.

Minor corrections regarding the attendance list from the previous meeting were noted. A motion was carried by Patrick Byker to approve the corrected minutes for the July 21, 1999 meeting; Commissioner Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Gudrun Parmer and Jo Iverson presented an update of current developments in the programs. Ms. Parmer presented an update on the individual grants for the FY 1999 and FY 2000. Also discussed were program issues regarding personnel, new programs, building needs, Probation Officers on-site, and upcoming program graduations. The C.J.R.C. web-site was introduced to the board. It was designed by Jo Iverson, and can be located by accessing the Durham County Government Home Page. The following statistical report was given for the months of July and August. In the month of July, there were 18 new admissions, 4 program completions, and 16 terminated for various reasons. In the month of August, there were 17 new admissions, 7 program completions, and 18 terminations for various reasons. The Criminal Justice Resource Center had a total of 134 participants, 69 DRC, 43 Second Chance, and 22 in the "Just Us" program as of August 31, 1999. The successful completion rate is 10 to 15% of the actual admissions. It was noted that this program should not be used as a revolving door for offenders, the result would be a waste of resources. It was suggested that the board weigh-in with probation and use whatever leverage possible to monitor this. It was decided that this issue would be a separate agenda item, and needed to include Adriane Reeseey from the division office, Mr. Ellis, a couple of probation officers and probation chiefs to address this issue.

Gudrun Parmer lead the discussion on defining 'violent offenders' for the CJRC Program. When the program was initiated, the initial program plan intended to serve only non-violent offenders, but the term 'non-violent' had never actually been defined. Staff has relayed concerns regarding this issue. Program staff now has access to the OPUS system, and can access the criminal history of clients. It has been discovered that some clients have even been convicted of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder. CJRC staff would like the board to set guidelines as to what offenses should exclude an offender from accessing the program. Commissioner Reckhow pointed out that if the state said the offender was reformed enough to be living in the community, interacting with the general population, it should mean that the offender was considered to be able to attend the program. CJRC staff indicated they have had good results working with people who came in with a history of violence. Offenders may have had issues controlling their anger and temper initially, and staff was concerned, but the clients pulled through and actually graduated from the program. This led staff to conclude that until the board adopted a policy, staff would not exclude anyone from the

program based on their criminal history. Evester Bailey stated that these were issues that the board needed to be aware of but he felt that if the board came up with an exclusionary policy, it could be interpreted to be discriminatory. If the players in the criminal justice system thought that an offender was safe to be out in the community, staff should be able to deal with this issue. It was decided that the board could provide guidance to staff and it would be the discretion of the CJRC management team to determine when a client needed to be expelled from the program. Mr. Bailey stated that if the program accepted clients with violent offenses, the program policy statement of serving non-violent offenders should be removed.

The CJPAB had discussed the issue of providing program access to religious groups during their last meeting. The suggestions that were made by board members have been incorporated in the policy. The program had one group interested in providing mentoring services starting November. With the board's approval of the policy, the mentoring program could start. Ms. Parmer stated this concept could be a good addition to overall program. The policy was approved by all in attendance.

Gudrun Parmer led the discussion of the conditions for a successful program completion. She stated compared to other programs, the Criminal Justice Resource Center had a low success rate, mostly because of high standards set for offenders to achieve while in the program. She reported other programs having different definitions for successful completions, in turn those programs turn out a higher success rate. She asked the board to revisit the issue of successful completions over the next few months. Ms. Reckhow felt that she could not appropriately discuss this issue, because of not knowing how it's currently defined. Mr. Bailey suggested that a subcommittee be formed that would report back to the board with recommendations as to the minimum conditions offenders would have to complete to successfully complete the program.

Ms. Parmer reported that Clerk to the Board Gary Umstead had pointed out that the statute guiding the Criminal Justice Partnership Act and the CJPAB indicated staggered terms for board members. Terms were for one, two, and three years. At the last Executive Committee meeting, those terms had been assigned, and reported to Gary Umstead who would determine necessary reappointments through the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Reckhow noted there was a policy in place that would remove board members who had missed 50% or more of the meetings. She suggested that attendance should be tallied and reported directly to Gary Umstead.

The next Advisory Board meeting was set for November 17, 1999. Gudrun Parmer adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.